

Recognized Member of Huron Tribe Br. Emilian Dauphinais (1904-2006)

Br. Emilian in full Huron regalia (below); and on his 100th birthday celebration with Br. Patrick Menard, Br. Matthew Plourde and nurses.



La Prairie, P.Q. Brother Emilian Dauphinais holds two rare firsts few members of the congregation can boast about: he died at 102 and was of Indian origin. Time was of the essence for Br. Emilian as he would have said that he had not died at 102 and four months but in his 103rd year. Time teaching was usually measured by the number of days (or hours) before the next vacation or the end of the school year. Little is known about his Huron origin, but some believe that his grandmother was a full-blooded Native American.

Brother Emilian had a long and varied career: he taught for 42 years in the Brothers schools in the USA. He was a founder of St. Louis High School in Biddeford, Me. in 1929, and for nine years was principal at St. Francis de Sales School and St. Joseph School in Waterville, Me. His years in the Brothers' schools also included a

four-year stay as director of St. Ignatius High School in Sanford, Me., and years in schools in Plattsburgh, N.Y., Fall River, Mass. and Alfred, Me. Prior to his teaching in the USA, he taught for seven years in Brothers' schools in Quebec, Canada.

He was the son of Mr. Alphonse Dauphinais and Lydia Dionne, born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada on June 7, 1904. He entered the juniorate of the Brothers of Christian Instruction at La Pointe-du-Lac, Quebec, Canada on March 3, 1917 and started his novitiate at the Brothers at La Prairie, Quebec on Feb. 2, 1920. He made his perpetual profession on July 14, 1927 and spent 86 years in religious life.

Wherever he went Brother Emilian proved to be a devoted worker, a jovial companion and a tireless storyteller

He was always a pleasant confrere, an amiable superior, a devoted religious serving God, his confreres, and his students without cost. Above all, he was straightforward, uncomplicated, a devoted son of John Mary de la Mennais.

His funeral was celebrated at the Notre Dame Chapel on Wednesday, Oct. 18. The celebrant was the Most Reverend Richard Malone, Bishop of Portland. He was assisted by Msgr. Marc Caron, Br. Theodore Letendre, and former students: Deacon Tyrone Rabideau, Msgr. Rene Mathieu, Rev. Paul Plante and Deacon Dennis Popaday. Burial was in the Brothers Cemetery.

The following Native American Prayer appropriately closed Br. Theodore's eulogy: "Great Spirit, whose voice I heard in the wind, whose breath gives life to the world, hear me. I come to you as one of your many children, small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. May I walk in beauty. Amen."

